

Sex – Reference Guide

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<u>Topic</u>	<u>Page</u>
Summary: Sex	1
Definition	1
Data Storage and Field Values	1
Missing Values	2
Processing Overview	2
EDI Summary	2
Discussion	2
Implementation: Sex	3
Data Collection: Hardcopy Report Form	3
Data Entry: Electronic Forms	4
Data Processing: Validations and Edit Checks	5
Data Processing: From Hardcopy to Storage	6
Data Transmission: Electronic Data Interchange	7

Summary: Sex

Definition

Sex of person at birth.

Data Storage and Field Values

There is 1 data element used to define the data concept Sex. The variable name noted below specifically applies to the sex of the subject of the report, at time of birth. Variable names for other uses of Sex, such as sex of contact of the subject of the report, are not discussed in this document but will be discussed in subsequent releases.

Variable Name:	SEX
Type:	character
Length:	1
Reported to CDC:	Yes
Field Values:	M - Male
	F - Female

Missing Values

If the value of the Sex data element is missing, or does not adhere to the CIPHER standard, the data element may be noted as blank to indicate a missing value. If the program requires the reason the value is missing, use a separate 1-character field to denote the rationale behind the missing data. The use of a Missing Value Reason data element must adhere to the CIPHER definition and rules associated with missing data as described in Appendix I - Missing Value Reason.

Processing Overview

No special requirements.

EDI Summary

EDI sections are under construction.

Discussion

The Sex data element is defined and structured to collect the biologic sex of the person at birth, and is therefore restricted to the categories of Male and Female. Programs needing to address particular circumstances (e.g., Hermaphrodite or Transsexual) are encouraged to define program-specific fields or variables.

In addition, when encountering these particular circumstances, the program can choose to note the CIPHER-defined Sex data element as missing (i.e., blank). An appropriate Missing Value Reason (MVR) may be stored in the associated Missing Value Reason variable, to indicate why the CIPHER-defined Sex datum is missing and to describe the special circumstances associated with the sex of the subject through use of program-defined MVR codes/definitions.

Implementation: Sex

The implementation examples noted below specifically apply to the sex of the subject of the report, at time of birth. The implementation for other uses of Sex can be patterned after these implementation examples.

Data Collection: Hardcopy Report Form

Check-box fields on the hardcopy report form are used for the collection of Sex data. The reporter can check or mark the box noting **M** for male or **F** for female. Refer to Figures 1 and 2 below:

Figure 1: Blank Hardcopy Form section used to collect Sex

Sex (select one)	<input type="checkbox"/>	M - Male
	<input type="checkbox"/>	F - Female

Figure 2: Completed Hardcopy Form section used to collect Sex

Sex (select one)	<input type="checkbox"/>	M - Male
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	F - Female

Missing Values – Hardcopy Form

Examples of hardcopy forms using the associated Missing Value Reason data element can be found in Appendix I – Missing Value Reason. The hardcopy form need only contain a Missing Value Reason if the program requires the rationale for a missing value for Sex.

Data Entry: Electronic Forms

A pull-down menu displays the valid entry options, which parallel the options noted on the collection report form (**M** for male and **F** for female) as shown in Figures 3, 4, and 5 below. The portion of the valid entry options displayed outside the parentheses reflects the data that are stored.

Figure 3: Blank Electronic Form used to collect Sex

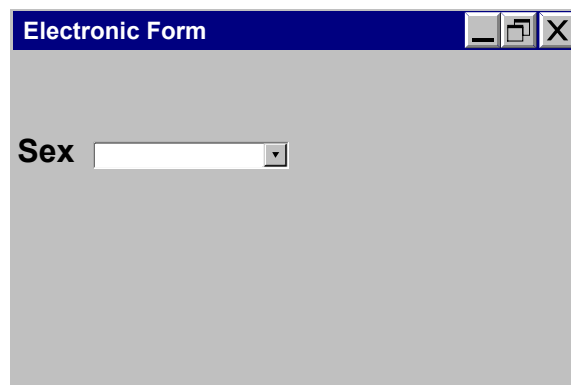
A screenshot of a software window titled "Electronic Form". The window has a blue title bar with standard minimize, maximize, and close buttons. The main area is light gray. On the left, the label "Sex" is displayed in bold black text. To the right of the label is a white rectangular pull-down menu with a small downward-pointing arrow on its right side.

Figure 4: Blank Electronic Form used to collect Sex, pull-down menu enabled

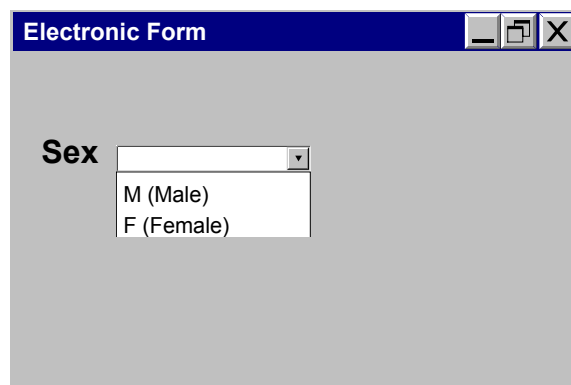
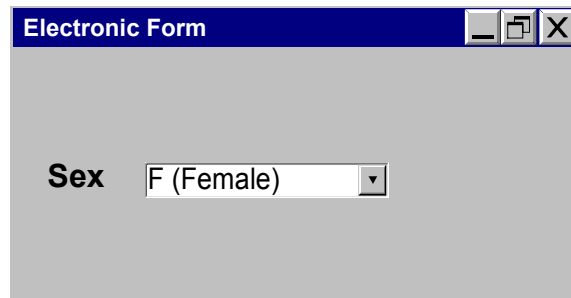
A screenshot of the same "Electronic Form" window as in Figure 3, but with the pull-down menu open. The menu is expanded downwards, showing two options: "M (Male)" and "F (Female)". The text "M (Male)" and "F (Female)" is displayed in a standard black font, with the parentheses indicating the stored data.

Figure 5: Completed Electronic Form used to collect Sex

The image shows a screenshot of a software window titled "Electronic Form". The window has a standard Windows-style title bar with minimize, maximize, and close buttons. The main content area is light gray. In the center, the label "Sex" is followed by a dropdown menu. The dropdown menu is open, showing the selected value "F (Female)".

Missing Values – Electronic Form

Examples of electronic forms using the associated Missing Value Reason (MVR) data element can be found in Appendix I – Missing Value Reason. The electronic form needs to handle the Missing Value Reason only if the program requires the rationale for a missing value for Sex. If the user selects a Missing Value Reason code during data entry, the Sex field will be blank and the screen will display the MVR information next to the blank field.

Data Processing: Validations and Edit Checks

Data elements entered in the electronic form will be edited as outlined below. If the program elects to use an associated Missing Value Reason data element for Sex, it will be edited as outlined in Appendix I – Missing Value Reason.

Sex:

- Alpha only
- Valid values for the 1-character field are 'M' and 'F'

Data Processing: From Hardcopy to Storage

The following example illustrates the flow of information from data collection on the hardcopy form, to data entry into the electronic form, to validations and storage in the database.

The process begins with the blank Hardcopy data collection form used to collect Sex:



The Sex information is captured on the form, creating a completed Hardcopy data collection form:



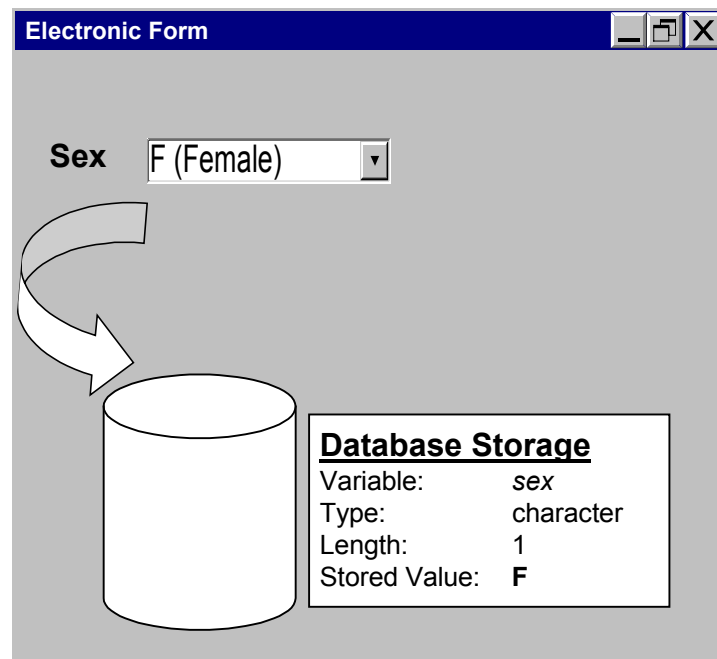
The process continues with a blank Electronic form/data entry screen used to capture Sex:



The value from the hardcopy form is entered into the Electronic form/data entry screen with the use of a drop-down list of valid values, and then the edits and validations are performed on Sex:



The completed Electronic form/data entry screen is redisplayed and Sex is stored in the database:



The screenshot shows a window titled "Electronic Form". Inside, there is a label "Sex" followed by a dropdown menu showing "F (Female)". A curved arrow points from the dropdown menu to a cylinder icon representing a database. To the right of the cylinder is a box titled "Database Storage" containing the following information:

Variable:	sex
Type:	character
Length:	1
Stored Value:	F

Data Transmission: Electronic Data Interchange

Note: EDI sections are under construction.